

# AEROPORTAL - SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL SMEs

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In this contribution details of the AERO PORTAL project will be described with respect to the possible cooperation between SMEs and industrial partners within the aeronautic supply chain.

**K e y w o r d s:** FP7, Aeronautics, Projects, Cooperation

The AeroPortal project is created by the merger of the two proposals AeroSME-NET (proposal reference number: FP-213241) and SCRATCH (proposal reference number: FP-200426), submitted in the first call of FP7 as continuations of FP6 successful support actions, respectively AeroSME – Support for European Aeronautical SMEs and SCRATCH – Services for SMEs in Collaborative Aeronautical Technical research.

AeroPortal will build on the respective skills, areas of expertise and acquired know-how of both AeroSME and SCRATCH to fully benefit from the interrelations, the areas of common activities and the full scale coordination.

It is the prime objective of AeroPortal to support aeronautical SMEs in advancing their technology base and their competitiveness through participation in European R&TD projects. This is done by creating a single point of reference for information and partner searches and by providing a wide ranging direct support in response to the Aeronautical SME expressed needs for accessing European RTD funds<sup>1</sup>.

The identified needs expressed by SMEs deal with:

- awareness on EU RTD mechanisms,
- help to select the right research idea,
- help to find the useful partners,
- training on EU matters and proposal preparation,
- help to join partnerships of proposals under preparation,
- help to prepare a successful proposal,

- help in contract negotiation,
- support in Project management.

These needs have been expressed towards both Level 1 and Level 2 Projects. Therefore, two approaches will be adopted:

- The support to help SMEs integrate both Level 1 and 2 proposals put forward by large companies. ASD will ensure the support of ASD-IMG4 (Industrial Management Groups)<sup>2</sup>, which represents the larger aerospace companies in Europe and coordinates industry's position with regard to the EU civil Aeronautics Framework Programmes. Its cooperation will be paramount to have access to first hand information and thus to support the SME participation in both Level 1 and 2 proposals.
- The support to SMEs to set up their own project proposals, help them in networking and writing proposals up to their submission to the EC for evaluation and to offer them support in contract negotiation and possibly in project management.

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<sup>1</sup> FP7 Cooperation, Theme 7, Transport (including aeronautics) Cross cutting activities 7.1.7, AAT.2007.7.5 Stimulating participation of SMEs.

<sup>2</sup> There are four Industrial Management Groups: Euromart IMG (airframers), Engine IMG, Equipment IMG and ATM IMG.